

City College News

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

OCTOBER 31, 2005 VOL. 23 NO. 3

Academic strategy: New system will greatly improve End of Term/Start of Term processing

It's the week before the holidays, and all through GBC, faculty are entering grades and are able to complete promotions meetings before the first week in January. Everyone is relaxed. The process is smooth, efficient and completed on time. Sound like 'visions of sugar plums'? Well, that vision is on the way to becoming a reality with the implementation of a new Automate End of Term/Start of Term system.

Automate End of Term/Start of Term was identified as a priority project to achieve the Academic Strategy's recommendation #7 to "improve the systems and processes that underpin academic excellence." These improvements will allow academic leaders to focus more of their energy on students and program quality. This project is being managed and sponsored through the Registrar's Office. College Registrar Barry Hemmerling is the project sponsor, Ray Tibando is the project manager and Lidia Pirraglia is team facilitator.

Entering grades and completing the End of Term paper process affects everyone in the College – faculty, staff and students. These activities determine grades, promotions and timetables, and the turn-around time between terms is tight, especially between the fall and winter terms. "The Automate End of Term/Start of Term project will significantly improve how these important activities are managed, with benefits for everyone, including an increase in student 'self-serve' capabilities for special timetables, and reduced workloads for the academic areas," says Ray Tibando, Project Manager.

The way End of Term/Start of Term works now

The current End of Term/Start of Term process is manual and labour intensive. It is paper-based and must be completed within a very short timeframe. 'Pseudos' which sound like characters in a scary movie, but are actually 'trial-run' transcripts are printed out for each student and then checked for accuracy and hand-corrected by coordinators, faculty and other staff. Connie Winder, ECE Coordinator and a George Brown faculty member for 15 years, says that in addition to courses sometimes being listed twice on a transcript, or appearing in a different order from one pseudo to the next. "There are a million possibilities that can make you lose your mind in the 24-48 hours you have to do this!"

The corrected pseudos are then photocopied and copies are filed to keep a record for the next end of term to cross check for accuracy. The corrections are then sent to the Records department whose staff has to come in over the holiday break and enter all of the changes.

This information is critical for program promotion and faculty and staff work under considerable pressure to ensure the pseudos are accurate so that students can receive their final grades as quickly as possible. Because of the tight time frame between terms, however, students sometimes only find out when the new term has already started that they have not have passed a course and are unable to continue in their program or require a special timetable which they must then arrange with their Academic Department.

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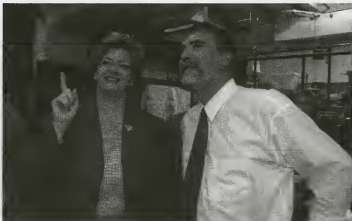
Ministry of Labour makes major announcement at George Brown College

On Monday, October 24, 2005, the Honourable Minister of Labour, Steve Peters was onsite at George Brown College's Plumbing Lab at Casa Loma to announce new regulations regarding safety protections for construction workers who deal with asbestos.

George Brown College President Anne Sado introduced the Minister and said that effective immediately, professors will update their content for their classrooms to reflect the new regulation. The changes announced will strengthen worker safety by ensuring that the most up to date safe work methods and procedures are used including updated respiratory protection.

Following the press conference, Professor Rainier Blundel escorted the Minister on a tour of the Plumbing Lab. This announcement was made in conjunction with Healthy Workplace Week.

A special thank you goes out to all of the faculty and students who were involved in the organization of this special event.



GBC President Anne Sado shares a laugh with Steve Peters, Minister of Labour.

Role Call

Alumni & Friends

The Alumni Office is the link between the College and our graduates. The role of this office is to encourage and promote alumni involvement with the College. Now part of Advancement, the Alumni Office offers services and programs, produces a newsletter, "econnect" an e-newsletter, chapter development and special alumni events. The office is also responsible for the nominations and submissions for the Premier's Awards. We are at Convocation, where the Alumni Association sells frames and roses. After Convocation, graduates receive the Graduate package which includes information on our services and programs and a laminated wallet-sized copy of the graduate's diploma with their GBC alumni membership card on the reverse side. Some of our programs and services include:

- The Mentor Program – a free service linking current students and George Brown College Alumni, and staff who through their professional and personal experience offer guidance, provide possible career options and give practical advice on the realities of the workplace. A popular annual "Meet n' Greet" introduces mentors to mentees.
- CareerWise – offers alumni and student alumni a range of services designed

to assist with work search and career assessment. All advising is provided on a confidential one-to-one basis and is free up to six months after graduation.

- Chapter Development – encourages the development of program-based chapters through start-up materials and meetings. A chapter allows graduates the opportunity to stay in touch with classmates, network and promote a greater understanding of their profession.
- Alumni Ambassador Program – our student Alumni Ambassadors promote the services and programs of the Alumni Office by making in-class presentations and serve as liaison between their program and the Alumni Office. This program offers students opportunities to develop their presentation and event organization skills.

Some of the Value Added Services offered to Alumni and Friends:

- TD Meloche Monnex Home and Auto Insurance
- MBNA GBC MasterCard
- National Car Rental
- Merit Travel
- Discount Seasonal Packages
- Meditrust
- CAA Central Ontario

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George Brown Alumni Business Card Exchange

To mark the 40th Anniversary of George Brown College the Alumni Office is hosting "Home Coming 2007 – 40 Years to Celebrate" George Brown College's history and development as a leader of learning in the city. In the fall of 2007 the Alumni Office is inviting alumni and friends to come back to the College for a reunion to celebrate this 40th anniversary, our achievements and history and the vital role the College plays as an educational leader in the city. Stay tuned for more developments!

More information can be found at:

- www.georgebrown.ca/alumni.html
- alumni@gbrownc.on.ca

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Centre for Advanced Building Technologies

About 400,000 people, some six percent of Ontario's workforce, are employed in the construction industry. Over the next 10 years, the growth rate for construction in the Greater Toronto Area is higher than the estimate for all industries in the region.

For more than 35 years, George Brown has launched the careers of thousands of people in the building industry, and today GBC is the leading educator of construction and building technology professionals in the GTA.

The nature of construction and building technology is changing. Broad societal trends are impacting the nature and focus of the industry in such areas as heritage preservation and building restoration, environmental design and energy conservation. Industry innovation is being driven by the environment, energy costs, economics, and the desire to professionalize the industry.

The Centre for Advanced Building Technologies (CABT) has been able to respond to these changes by building on our core strengths which include: a complete facility with studios and labs that reflect current industry technology and give students the valuable hands-on training that increase their value to employers; and a suite of traditional college programs which range from apprenticeship through two and three-year diploma programs. We have added new offerings including two four year bachelor degree programs and specialized industry experience.

What is perhaps most exciting is that several more new ideas are being explored which reflect the extremely close relationship with and support of the industry.

Illustrated Talk: Working with Refugee and Immigrant Children: A Perspective from Denmark.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, Noon 1 p.m. St. James Room 346G.

George Brown's Neil McGillivray will present an illustrated talk about working on a project to help refugee and immigrant children near Copenhagen in July 2005. Free. All staff and students are welcome. Please bring your lunch.

2005 Ontario College Information Fair

The George Brown College Recruitment Team greeted over 7,000 students at the 2005 Ontario College Information Fair at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



George Brown College Alumni wins prestigious Alzheimer Society Award

Cindy Pilkey, an Activity Coordinator for the Société Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin, has received the 2005 Alzheimer Society of Ontario Founders' Award. This award is presented annually to an Ontarian from a different sector of the community who goes above and beyond in their service to people affected by Alzheimer Disease and related disorders.

An honours graduate of George Brown College's Activation Coordinator program, Cindy has dedicated over 17 years of her life to organizing therapeutic activity programs for people affected by dementia.

"Our clients love Cindy. She focuses so much of her energy on them, and she knows just how to make the programs work for everyone," says Patricia Montpetit, the Executive Director of the Société Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin.

"Cindy has set a very high standard for professionals who help people with dementia," says Douglas Taylor, Chairperson of the Founders' Award Task Force and retiring member of the Alzheimer Society of Ontario Board of Directors. "The Task Force members were greatly impressed with her creativity, sense of fun and deep caring for her clients and their partners in care."

Congratulations to Cindy for her dedication to caring for those in her community and for being recognized for her accomplishments.



Academic strategy

(continued from page 1)

The way it will work soon

When the new Automate End of Term/Start of Term process is fully implemented next spring, it will greatly simplify grade processing and program promotions. As Ray Tibando explains, "Work that now takes many people many days to complete may be accomplished in a matter of hours during the departmental program promotion process, using a single computer and a large screen."

The new system will first and foremost eliminate the pseudos. The information currently recorded on the paper pseudos will be stored and presented electronically to everyone at the same time. A new grading tool will hold grades in a 'queue' so that grade changes can be applied during the promotion process, and departmental personnel will be able to evaluate, pass, fail or transfer students into another program semester.

The new system will make it possible to then present missed or failed courses online to students during web registration. And because it will allow more students to develop special timetables on their own, more students will be in the right classes for the next term.

The new system will be implemented in four phases: End-user Reporting and Grade Entry by the end of November, Program Promotion and Special Timetable by next April.

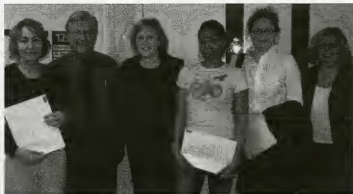
Want to know more?

If you'd like to know more about this project or about the many other Academic Strategy activities that are helping to transform George Brown College into a learning community built on excellence in teaching and learning, e-mail asi@gbrown.on.ca.

The Toby Isaacs Scholarships awarded to three Gerontology students

Members of the George Brown College Senior Association packed the St. James Campus lecture theatre earlier this month to present the Annual Toby Isaacs Gerontology Scholarships to three outstanding second year students in the Activation Coordinator Gerontology Program.

Kate Keleher, Karen McKenzie and Svetlana Odinok graciously accepted their certificates and awards which recognized their high academic standing, creative performance and compassionate understanding. The scholarships are named after Toby Isaacs, a founding member of the George Brown College Seniors Association and the driving force in establishing the scholarship and fundraising. The presentations were made by Michael Cooke, Vice President Academic Excellence and Innovation.



(from left) Svetlana Odinok, Michael Cooke, Vice President Academic Excellence and Innovation, Anne Marie Stoneburgh, Program Coordinator for Activation Coordinator/Gerontology Program, Karen McKenzie, Kate Keleher and Lori Cranston, Associate Dean, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences.

George Brown College participates in the 25th Annual Holocaust Education Week October 27-November 9, 2005

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. Holocaust Education Week serves to remind us of history, the importance of fighting anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance. This year George Brown College is sponsoring a program entitled, "Women and Girls in the Holocaust" in collaboration with Ryerson University. On Monday, November 7 at 4:30 p.m., Professors Marlene Kardar and Sara Horowitz will be discussing the women of Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. Students are cordially invited to

attend this lecture taking place at Ryerson's Jorgensen Hall, POD 144, 380 Victoria Street. For more information contact Professor Susan Born at sborn@gbrown.ca or visit www.holocausteducationweek.com.

George Brown College presents year two of Health in the City

On November 23, 2005, this highly successful event is back and promises to have something for everyone. It's an all-day event that will showcase to guidance counsellors, elementary school students and teachers, prospective students and parents, and community partners how George Brown is delivering interprofessional health sciences and community services education. This year, Health in the City will feature a

keynote address by the Honourable Monique Bégin and a presentation by Dr. Peter Cooney, Chief Dental Officer of Health Canada; as well as mark the official opening of the Interprofessional Learning Clinic at the Casa Loma Campus.

The overall theme of Health in the City is Social Determinants of Health, which has been identified as a focus of the World Health Organization. Those who attend this exciting and informative event will have the opportunity to tour through the new space and see for themselves how the different pieces fit together to make a healthier whole.

More information on Health in the City is available at: www.georgebrown.ca/healthinthecity/index.aspx.

AROUND GEORGE BROWN



Siegfried's Dining Room offers new lunch and dinner menus

If you're looking for a great place to go for lunch or dinner in the neighbourhood, don't forget that Siegfried's is now open for business. Great new menus have been designed and offer fare that will tantalize your taste buds and impress your friends and business associates. By dining at Siegfried's, not only will you enjoy a gourmet meal, you'll be participating in the education and training of students in the service, cooking and management programs of the College's Hospitality and Tourism Division.

George Brown College staff and students are eligible for special rates and discounts so make your reservation now by calling 4-6-415-2260.

Forget TGIF

Fridays this fall have become eagerly anticipated days filled with excitement and fun for dozens of George Brown staff. That's because they are players in a college-wide game to support the College's United Way campaign.

Every Friday morning teams of four staff members across the College gather nervously in front of a computer – waiting anxiously for the next challenge in the Amazing Race. At 10 a.m. when a question is posted on our

website – they're off to find the answer – fast – and have it verified by an "Authority" whose identity is hidden in a riddle. Then they make a quick call to Patricia Gaviira, Assistant to VP Michael Cooke, to register.

"They're really fast," says Gaviira, noting that the current record for a correct answer is a mere 10 minutes. Being first with the right answer earns the team maximum points for the week – and if they stay on top until the end of the contest each team member wins a stay in a luxury hotel.

But our Amazing Race isn't about high quality linens and room service – it's about building excitement and support for the College's most ambitious United Way Campaign ever. To participate in the Amazing Race each team member had to make a donation to the umbrella charity organization which helped the College towards its goal of \$105,000.

So far college staff have donated more than \$63,000 – which is about \$10,000 more than at this point last year, says Gaviira.

And the College's campaign, which was launched on Sept. 16 and runs until Nov. 25 – still has many special events on deck in the coming weeks to help reach its target:

- Book lovers can find a great read and support a great cause with book sales
- A one dollar donation will get you a flu shot in special campus clinics
- College staff will sell their art and craft creations with proceeds to the United Way
- Early Childhood Development staff are organizing a fund raising dinner.

Details about these events, and weekly Amazing Race results, can be found on the College's website at www.georgebrown.ca/unitway.

OOPS! We're so sorry...

In the last issue of City College News, the following people were incorrectly identified in the Comings and Goings column:

Colette Kane has not departed but has transferred to Admin and is now Supervisor, Childcare Operations in the Centre for Early Childhood Development

Sandra Jackson has not transferred but did leave the College

Kapildeo Mahadeo works for Campus Management, Facilities Management at Casa Loma

Dorothy Van Grootheest is an English Professor, Access Centre

Stephanie Adams is a Professor, Faculty of Technology

Marlene Slopack is a Professor, Faculty of Technology

The Assessment Centre is in the Education Resources Department

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